

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1 - 14 as presented in the originally filed application are still active in this case. The Examiner requested a restriction to claims 1-9 in this matter, claims 8, 10-14 have been withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9 are pending in the application. Claims 4 and 9 are amended.

Claim Objections §112

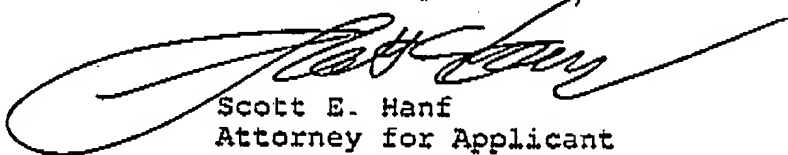
Claims 4 & 9 stand objected to under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claims 4 & 9 as suggested by the Examiner and respectfully requests that the objection to these claims be removed and the claims allowed. Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that if the applicant made these amendments after final the amendment would be entered after final. Applicant has made no other changes to the claims and respectfully requests

that the Examiner enter in this amendment so that the case will be in proper form for appeal.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests an early Notice that this amendment has been entered after final.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott E. Hanf  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 38,906

Customer No. 29494  
Robert H. Hammer III, P.C.  
3121 Springbank Lane  
Suite I  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
Telephone: 704-927-0400  
Facsimile: 704-927-0485

H:\2001\045\Appeal\Amend-AF-072605.doc